



## CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**Date:** April 7, 2015

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Mark D. Ahrendsen, Transportation Director

**Subject:** U-71 East End Connector Construction

### Executive Summary

The N. C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has awarded a contract to Dragados USA Inc. to construct the East End Connector, a new freeway connection between NC 147 (Durham Freeway) and US 70 on the east side of Durham. NCDOT and their contractors will provide a presentation to the City Council on the project, construction schedule, and traffic impacts and detours.

### Recommendation

The Department of Transportation recommends that the City Council receive a presentation from NCDOT on the construction of the East End Connector.

### Background

The East End Connector has been an element of City, State and regional long-range transportation plans since 1959. The project was one of Durham's "Urban Loop" projects and was funded through the State Transportation Improvement Program. An environmental study began in 2006 with final approval in 2009. The City of Durham and NCDOT conducted public outreach as part of the environmental study including formation of an Ad Hoc Committee for community input. The full environmental study and related planning documents are available on the NCDOT website at [www.ncdot.gov/projects/eastendconnector](http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/eastendconnector).

The project will include construction of a new freeway connection between NC 147 (Durham Freeway) and US 70, conversion of US 70 to a limited access freeway north of Pleasant Drive, rebuilding of the US 70/NC 98 (Holloway Street) interchange, widening of NC 98 (Holloway Street) between N. Miami Blvd. and US 70, construction of a new Carr Street interchange with US 70, and reconfiguration of many nearby streets. The City of Durham is contributing \$59,397.40 and the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization is contributing \$237,589.60 of federal Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable funds for the costs of sidewalks and various other enhancements to the project.

The project is fully funded in the State Transportation Improvement Program with construction now underway. NCDOT awarded a \$142 million contract for construction of the project to Dragados USA

Inc. in early 2015. Utility relocation and right-of-way acquisition has been in progress for many months.

### **Issues and Analysis**

NCDOT's contractors have begun grading and clearing the project area for construction to commence on the East End Connector project. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on April 22, 2015 at 10 am at Living Waters Christian Community Church (1104 Lynn Road, Durham). The scheduled completion date for all elements of the project is January 10, 2020, with all work except reforestation complete by July 15, 2019. Construction related to NC 147 is scheduled to be complete by August 1, 2017.

During the construction period, there will be many impacts to traffic on NC 147, US 70, NC 98, and other nearby streets. NCDOT will provide information about detours and lane closures in their presentation.

NCDOT and Contractor Staff for this project include:

- Dennis Jernigan, PE, Division 5 Construction Engineer, NCDOT
- Michelle Gaddy, PE, Resident Engineer, NCDOT
- Phillip Townsend, PE, Assistant Resident Engineer, NCDOT
- Jose Martin-Alos, Project Manager, Dragados USA Inc.
- Matt Levey, PE, Project Engineer, Dragados USA Inc.
- Peyton Spivey, Senior Project Inspector, RS&H
- Adam Gosselin, Senior Project Engineer, RS&H

For additional questions about the construction of the project, contact NCDOT's Resident Engineer's Office, Michelle Gaddy, PE ([mhgaddy@ncdot.gov](mailto:mhgaddy@ncdot.gov)) or Phillip Townsend, PE ([pjtownsend@ncdot.gov](mailto:pjtownsend@ncdot.gov)) at 919-840-0914. NCDOT's project website <http://ncdot.gov/projects/eastendconnector/> will be updated soon with project construction information.

### **Alternatives**

Do not receive the presentation from NCDOT on the East End Connector.

### **Financial Impact**

On April 7, 2014 the City Council authorized the contribution of \$59,397.40 in matching City funds for sidewalks and other enhancements to the project. The City Council further authorized the expenditure of \$1,255,096.70, including a 10% contingency fund, for the required relocation of City water and sewer utilities.

### **SDBE Summary**

NCDOT agreements require that their contracting procedures be followed for these projects. The Department of Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance did not review this item for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

### **Attachments**

Presentation